

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
 - discrimination means for discriminating a drawing object based upon object information corresponding to the drawing object;
 - developing means for developing the drawing object and obtaining developed image data which represents a developed image;
 - designation means for designating a region of the developed image based upon the object information corresponding to the drawing object that has been developed by said developing means;
 - shift-up means for shifting up the bits of image data corresponding to the region of the developed image; [[:]] and
 - encoding means for entropy encoding the developed image data, in which the bits of the image data which have been shifted up by said shift-up means.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising combining means for combining drawing objects based on the corresponding object information when combination of drawing objects is commanded;
 - wherein said developing means performs developing based upon the drawing objects combined by said combining means.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encoding means performs encoding while lowering ~~the a~~ compression ratio of the developed image data corresponding to the region.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said designation means designates the region in accordance with a degree of priority of object information that corresponds to the drawing object.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drawing object is described by a page description language.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

 a discrimination step, of discriminating a drawing object based upon object information ~~that~~ corresponding to the drawing object;

~~an a~~ developing step, of developing the drawing object and obtaining developed image data which represents developed image;

 a designation step, of designating a region of the developed image based upon object information corresponding to the drawing object that has been developed ~~by in~~ said developing step;

~~a~~ shift-up step, of shifting up the bits of image data corresponding to the region of the developed image; [[:]] and

 an encoding step, of entropy encoding the developed image data, in which the bits of the image data ~~which~~ have been shifted up by said shift-up step.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, further comprising a combining step of combining drawing objects based on the corresponding to object information ~~drawing objects~~ when combination of drawing objects is commanded[[:]]
wherein said developing step performs includes performing developing based upon the drawing objects combined at in said combining step.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said encoding step performs includes performing encoding while lowering the a compression ratio of the developed image data corresponding to the region.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said designation step designates includes designating the region in accordance with a degree of priority of object information that corresponds to a drawing object.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the drawing object is described by a page description language.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing an image processing method, the program comprising:
a discrimination step, of discriminating a drawing object based upon object information corresponding to the drawing object;
~~an~~ a developing step, of developing the drawing object and obtaining developed image data which represents a developed image;

a designation step, of designating a region of the developed image based upon object information corresponding to the drawing object that has been developed by in said developing step;

a shift-up step, of shifting up the bits of image data corresponding to the region of the developed image; and

an encoding step, of entropy encoding the developed image data, in which the bits of the image data which have been shifted up by in said shift-up step.

12. - 23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

developing means for analyzing a plurality of commands representing a drawing object and developing bit-mapped image data for one page;
transformation means for transforming the bit-mapped image data by using a wavelet transformation and generating transformed coefficients for the one page;
designation means for designating a region of an image represented by the bit-mapped image data based upon the an analysis result of analyze provided by said developing means;

shift-up means for shifting up the bits of bit-mapped image data corresponding to the region of the image designated by said designation means; [[:]] and entropy encoding means for entropy encoding the bit-mapped image data, in which the bits of bit-mapped image data corresponding to the region which have been shifted up by said shift-up means.

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising:
decode means for decoding code data encoded by said entropy encoding
means and generating bit-mapped image data for one page; and
print means for printing based on the bit-mapped image data.

26. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the command is
described by using a page description language.

27. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:
analyzing a plurality of commands representing a drawing object and
developing bit-mapped image data for one page;
transforming the bit-mapped image data by using a wavelet transformation
and generating transformed coefficients for the one page;
designating a region of an image represented by the bit-mapped image data
based upon the an analysis result of analyze produced in said developing step;
shifting up the bits of bit-mapped image data corresponding to the region of
the image designated in said designation step; [[:]] and
entropy encoding the bit-mapped image data, in which the bits of
bit-mapped image data corresponding to the region ~~which~~ have been shifted up in said
shifting up step.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory storing program codes for controlling a printing apparatus for printing an image on a printing medium on the basis of input image data, comprising:

 a developing step module, of analyzing a plurality of commands representing a drawing object and developing bit-mapped image data for one page;

 a transforming step module, of transforming the bit-mapped image data by using a wavelet transformation and generating transformed coefficients for the one page;

 a designation step module, of designating a region of an image represented by the bit-mapped image data based upon ~~the an analysis result of analyze~~ in said developing step module;

 a bit shift-up step module, of shifting up the bits of bit-mapped image data corresponding to the region of the image designated in said designation step module; [[:]] and

 an entropy encoding step module, of entropy encoding the bit-mapped image data, in which the bits of bit-mapped image data corresponding to the region ~~which~~ have been shifted up in said bit shift-up step module.